

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, on behalf)	
of its subsidiaries or affiliates)	CSR 8022-E
)	
Petition for Determination of Effective)	
Competition in Kent County, Maryland (CUID)	
MD0336))	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Adopted: March 8, 2010

Released: March 9, 2010

By the Senior Deputy Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, on behalf of its subsidiaries and affiliates, hereinafter referred to as “Petitioner,” has filed with the Commission a petition pursuant to Sections 76.7, 76.905(b)(1) and 76.907 of the Commission’s rules for a determination that Petitioner is subject to effective competition in the community listed on Attachment A and hereinafter referred to as “Community.” Petitioner alleges that its cable system serving the Community is subject to effective competition pursuant to Section 623(l)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“Communications Act”),¹ and the Commission’s implementing rules,² and is therefore exempt from cable rate regulation in the Communities because Petitioner serves fewer than 30 percent of the households in the franchise area. The petition is unopposed.

2. In the absence of a demonstration to the contrary, cable systems are presumed not to be subject to effective competition,³ as that term is defined by Section 623(l) of the Communications Act and Section 76.905 of the Commission’s rules.⁴ The cable operator bears the burden of rebutting the presumption that effective competition does not exist with evidence that effective competition is present within the relevant franchise area.⁵ For the reasons set forth below, we grant the petition based on our finding that Petitioner is subject to effective competition in the Community listed on Attachment A.

II. DISCUSSION

3. Section 623(l)(1)(A) of the Communications Act provides that a cable operator is subject to effective competition if the Petitioner serves fewer than 30 percent of the households in the franchise area; this test is otherwise referred to as the “low penetration” test.⁶ Petitioner alleges that it is subject to effective competition under the low penetration effective competition test because it serves less than 30 percent of the households in the franchise area.

¹See 47 U.S.C. § 543(a)(1).

²47 C.F.R. § 76.905(b)(1).

³47 C.F.R. § 76.906.

⁴See 47 U.S.C. § 543(l) and 47 C.F.R. § 76.905.

⁵See 47 C.F.R. §§ 76.906 & 907.

⁶47 U.S.C. § 543(l)(1)(A).

4. Based upon the subscriber penetration level calculated by Petitioner, as reflected in Attachment A, we find that Petitioner has demonstrated the percentage of households subscribing to its cable service is less than 30 percent of the households in the Communities. Therefore, the low penetration test is satisfied as to the Community.

III. ORDERING CLAUSES

5. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that the petition for a determination of effective competition filed in the captioned proceeding by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, on behalf of its subsidiaries and affiliates **IS GRANTED**.

6. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the certification to regulate basic cable service rates granted to the Community set forth on Attachment A **IS REVOKED**.

7. This action is taken pursuant to delegated authority pursuant to Section 0.283 of the Commission's rules.⁷

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Steven A. Broecker
Senior Deputy Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau

⁷47 C.F.R. § 0.283.

ATTACHMENT A

CSR 8022-E

COMMUNITIES SERVED BY COMCAST CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, ON BEHALF OF ITS
SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES

Community	CUID	Franchise Area Households	Cable Subscribers	Penetration Percentage
Kent County	MD0336	4619	104	2.25%